The One Hundred and Fourth Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1956

BRADBURY-WARING, INC.
New Bedford, Mass.

Officers and Staff of the Free Public Library

Trustees

HON. FRANCIS J. LAWLER	Mayor of the City

Elected by the City Council

CAROLYN B. MANNING	Term expires April 1957
RT. REV. MSGR. JOHN F. McKEON*	Term expires April 1957
H. ERNEST DIONNE	Term expires April 1958
RICHARD G. HAWES	Term expires April 1958
JAMES M. QUINN	Term expires April 1959
ROBERTA S. BARNET	Term expires April 1959

STAFF

Librarian

LAURENCE G. HILL

Assistant Librarian

CLAIRE N. RILEY**

Heads of Departments

MARION H. BONNER	Reference Librarian
YVETTE BOISCLAIR	Art Librarian
CHARLOTTE S. NYE	Supervisor of Children, Schools and Young People
CELESTINE M. POWERS	Supervisor of Technical Processes
JEANIE D. SHIELDS	Bookmobile Librarian

Assistants

IRENE BANCROFT***
CATHERINE BELL
MARIAN CALLANAN
SHIRLEY COHEN
EVALINA CONSTANTINE
MARGARET FANNING
GERTRUDE GOLDSTEIN
NATALIE GOODWIN
LIDA HASKINS
REGINALD HEGARTY
ANNE HOOD
RACHEL LANDRY
ALICE MAHONEY
THELMA PAINE
LORETTA PHANEUF
FRANCES SANDERSON
DEOLINDA TAVARES
JOHANNA WALSH
**SARAH WALTER
CECELIA WEAVER
MARGUERITE ZIELINSKI

Branches

North Branch
SALLY VICTORIA
ALICE NOEL

South Branch
CEZALTINA MENDOZA
MARY PHANEUF

West Branch
LUCY ANN SHERMAN
IRENE WILES
**KATHERINE WHITEHEAD

Building Maintenance Staff

ROSE ALVES
INEZ CAMPOS****
ADRIEN LANDRY
ALICE MARSH
WILLIAM MARSH
HILDA MONIZ
GARRISON OLIVER
LEONARD ROSE
GABRIEL SOUZA

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* Deceased
** Resigned
*** Leave of absence
**** Transferred to School Department

Trustees' Report

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.

The Trustees present their One Hundred and Fourth Annual Report to the City Council in the report of the Librarian.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

LAURENCE G. HILL,

Clerk of the Board

Annual Report of the Librarian 1956

The program for modernization and expansion of the Free Public Library gathered momentum in 1956. The chief concern was the planning of the new North Branch to be built at the entrance of Brooklawn Park. The local firm of Tallman, LaBrode and Rounseville was chosen as architects in May and began work on preliminary plans immediately. The Trustees, the Librarian and the architects spent many hours of planning and discussion which resulted in the approval of preliminary plans in October. Construction of the new branch is expected to begin early in 1957.

The electrical renovation and new lighting of the Main Library building begun in 1955 was completed in April of 1956. This long needed improvement combines efficient lighting for reading and working with a minimum disturbance of the architectural beauty of the building. The design and installation of the lighting fixtures in the rotunda near the main desk is perhaps the best example. It is difficult to realize that these lights were not always there.

The elimination of the manual telephone switchboard and its replacement by an automatic dial system has increased efficiency in handling telephone calls and has resulted in a substantial saving.

The long overdue job of roof and drain repair was begun late in the year but progress has been slow because of inclement weather. These repairs will be completed early in 1957 and will pave the way for equally long overdue interior wall repairs and redecorating. The steadily increasing activity at the West Branch Library has for some time caused overcrowded conditions that make service difficult for both the library clientele and the staff. Fortunately the adjacent store at 868 Kempton Street became available in the early Fall permitting the expansion of the Branch. The partition between the two

stores was torn down, a new floor was laid throughout, additional shelving was ordered and new lighting and fresh paint were provided. With the completion of exterior painting the West Branch will present a bright cheerful appearance in more commodious quarters. The completion of two new schools within the service area of the West Branch will result in increased use of the Branch by these pupils. Total cost of the renovation was $2,370.00.

ADULT SERVICES

As an economy measure the Main Library discontinued service on Sundays and holidays and Saturdays from 6 - 9 P.M.

The Librarian received only one complaint whereas several patrons expressed their approval of the change.

The circulation of books continues to rise with the Main Library and West Branch showing marked gains. The total increase over 1955 was 4312 for a total of 487,831.

The Reference and Business and Technical Rooms were well populated by information seekers who asked a total of 13,724 questions. During the celebration on the occasion of the world premiere of "Moby Dick" the Reference Department did yeoman service in supplying information to hundreds of people on the subject of Melville, whaling, New Bedford history, period costumes and many other subjects.

The Art Room circulated 3424 long playing records as well as providing material for its patrons on painting, music, photography and allied subjects. A series of excellent sound and color movies on the history of art and artists was well attended. The commentary on the films was done by Mr. Hiram Haggett and Mr. Walter Owen of the Swain School of Design.

The Genealogical Room continues to serve its many appreciative patrons. In this room there is a wealth of information on local history that can be obtained nowhere else. An

example is the request of the Genealogical Society of Utah for permission to make microfilm copies of the Leonard Papers, a manuscript collection of local genealogies. In return the society gave the Library an extra microfilm copy of the Leonard Papers which was sold to the Rhode Island Historical Society.

The microfilm file of the New Bedford Standard-Times is in daily use as are the microfilm copies of whaling logs and older New Bedford newspapers.

The Bookmobile service was curtailed slightly because of severe weather conditions and mechanical difficulties but still managed to give good service to its many patrons. The Bookmobile itself appeared in the "Moby Dick" celebration float parade as a white whale. The efforts of Mr. Hegarty, the driver, in making the transformation from Bookmobile to white whale were very successful and a tribute to his ingenuity and persistence. It was one of the largest and most impressive floats in the parade.

The Library also took advantage of the occasion to exhibit whaling logs, books by and about Herman Melville and other books about whaling. Copies of "Moby Dick" were in great demand both before and after the premiere.

SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Circulation of books to children and young people accounts for about half of the total book circulation of the Library. Active cooperation with the schools is an important part of the Children's program and includes visiting the schools and bringing classes to the Library. Special loans of pertinent materials are made to teachers as needed. Books on both adult and juvenile levels are lent to the junior high schools, senior high school and vocational high school to augment the schools' own collections. Two hundred and forty-eight boxes containing some 11,795 books were sent out to third through sixth grades of public and parochial schools during 1956. The

total circulation of these books was 112,820. This service would be greatly enhanced if these books could be changed at least once during the school year. At present lack of personnel and transportation preclude the possibility.

LIBRARY GROWTH

Very few of the Library's patrons realize how books get into a library. It is by no means a simple process. Book selection is done primarily by the Librarian assisted by department heads and others with careful consideration of the needs and fields of interest of the clientele both adult and juvenile. The ordering, cataloging and processing is an intricate and highly skilled operation that results in books on similar subjects being placed together on the shelves. In the public catalog every attempt is made to show the resources of the Library through the alphabetical listing of authors, titles and subjects. Some books may be listed as many as four to six times depending on the variety of subjects treated in the books' contents.

During the year 9,541 volumes were added to the Library and 2,870 were discarded. The present total of volumes in the Library at the end of the year was 270,649.

PERSONNEL

In August Miss Claire Riley resigned as Assistant Librarian to accept the position of Librarian at Normandin Junior High School. Miss Riley's energy and enthusiasm as well as her thorough knowledge of library work will be sorely missed.

Mrs. Irene Bancroft, Bookmobile Assistant, left to go to Ohio. Mrs. Catherine Bell was transferred to the position of Bookmobile Assistant and Mrs. Anne Hood was appointed as Junior Children's Assistant. Mrs. Katherine Whitehead resigned as West Branch Assistant and was replaced by Mrs. Irene Wiles.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. McKeon. A Trustee since 1941, Msgr. McKeon

contributed unsparingly of his time and talents to the growth and welfare of the Library.

FUTURE PLANS

Future plans depend on the amount of money available to implement them. Present policy is to replace from income the amount required to build the new North Branch. While this will curtail plans to some extent the following items should be considered.

1957
1. Repair of walls and interior painting of the Main Library.
2. Exterior cleaning and pointing of Main Library.
3. Refinishing of tables and chairs in Ingraham Hall and Reference Room.
4. New floor in Reference Room.

1958-61
1. Rewire book stack area in Main Library.
2. Replace present elevator with automatic elevator.
3. Remodel South Branch and provide new furniture.
4. Overhaul and modernize heating system in Main Library.

There are other desirable improvements and renovations but the above are in my opinion the most pressing items.

In closing I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff who have cheerfully put up with the inconveniences entailed in our renovation program and once again I would like to thank the Trustees for the interest, time and enthusiasm they have given to the needs and problems of the Library.

LAURENCE G. HILL,

Librarian

STATISTICS IN FORM RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Name of Library—New Bedford Free Public Library.
City—New Bedford. State—Massachusetts.
Name of Librarian—Laurence G. Hill.
Date of Founding—1852.
Population served—109,189 (U.S. Census 1950)
What government unit served—City.
Terms of use—Free lending. Free reference.
Total number of agencies—253.
Central Library, 3 Branches, Bookmobile, 248 School Deposits and Classroom Libraries.

Number of days open during the year	309
Hours open each week for reading and lending	69
Hours of service per week required of Staff	35

Library Hours—Main Library

Monday - Friday	9:00 A.M. — 9:00 P.M.
Saturday	9:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M.

Closed Sundays and Holidays

BOOK STOCK

Number of volumes at beginning of year	263,978
Added by purchase and gift	9,541
Number of volumes withdrawn	2,870
Number of volumes at end of year	270,649
Number of newspapers currently received	32
Number of periodicals currently received	296
Number of recordings added	80
Total number of records	945

CIRCULATION AND USE

Number of volumes of adult non-fiction lent for home use	81,585

Number of volumes of adult fiction lent for home use	132,223
Number of books for children lent for home use	274,023
Total	487,831
Number of mounted pictures loaned	37,280
Number of recordings circulated	3,424

REGISTRATION

Total number of registered card holders	23,270

Length of registration period is 3 years.

CITY APPROPRIATION

Salaries and Wages — Appropriated		$110,149.84
General Expenses		9,840.00
		$119,989.84
Expended		
Salaries	$ 79,391.04	
Wages	29,362.75	
	$108,753.79	
General Expenses		
Insurance	288.40	
Janitors' Supplies	1,102.95	
Printing	38.60	
Express	399.80	
Postage	242.26	
Telephone	1,268.20	
Light	2,306.67	
Heat	689.79	
Stationery and Supplies	1,614.84	
Travel and Transportation	148.45	
Rent	1,050.00	
P.O. Box Rent	30.00	
Dues	57.00	
Elevator Repairs	311.55	
Rental	30.00	
Medical Expenses	58.40	
Typewriter Maintenance	97.20	
Building Maintenance	92.57	
Advertising	11.50	
	$ 9,838.18	

TOTAL EXPENDED: $118,591.97

Returned to City Treasurer: $ 1,397.87

Salaries and Wages $ 1,396.05 General Expenses $ 1.82

TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES
1956

Books and Periodicals	$22,358.78
Bookmobile Maintenance	1,145.43
Treasurer's Salary (Wilks)	1,000.00
Electrical Renovation	28,777.03
Film Rentals	117.21
Safe Deposit Box Rental	70.50
Commission to Bank (Tripp Fund)	29.61
New Equipment	1,193.88
Binding	1,386.44
Insurance	348.01
Stationery and Supplies	137.28
New North Branch	3,006.00
West Branch Renovation	826.06
Microfilming	257.22
Building Maintenance	108.05
Prepaid Bond Interest	2,018.08
All Other	304.73
	$63,084.31

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 1956

TRUST FUNDS	Balance 1955	Income 1956	Expenditures 1956	Balance 1956
J. B. Congdon	$ 73.25	$ 14.38	00.00	$ 87.63
G. O. Crocker	398.33	290.48	642.16	46.65
Oliver Crocker	121.16	28.75	51.44	98.47
George Howland, Jr.	132.35	46.00	6.00	172.35
Charles W. Morgan	107.85	28.75	6.25	130.35
Charles L. Wood	238.78	57.50	0.00	296.28
Sylvia Ann Howland	751.44	1,723.09	1,866.08	608.45
Kempton	4,137.70	11,680.71	14,330.38	1,488.03
Elizabeth Mackie	117.77	28.75	65.75	80.77
Patty Wilcox	653.61	143.75	395.79	401.57
Frederick Allen	106.46	28.75	0.00	135.21
Florence L. Waite	4,766.33	1,240.61	232.40	5,774.54
Clara L. Tripp	290.32	592.06	588.51	293.87
S. A. H. G. Wilks	6,784.13	44,421.65	44,841.98	6,363.80
SPECIAL FUNDS				
H. H. Crapo Fund	22.00	00.00	20.32	1.68
Wm. L. R. Gifford	103.66	00.00	37.25	66.41
	$18,805.14	$60,325.23	$63,084.31	$16,046.06

TREASURER'S REPORT – WILKS FUND 1956
INCOME ACCOUNT

Balance December 31, 1955		$ 6,784.13
Income 1956	$44,421.65	
Transferred to Income Account	8,000.00	

Expended		
Books and Periodicals	$ 5,094.64	
Bookmobile	1,145.43	
Treasurer's Salary	1,000.00	
Electrical Renovation	28,777.03	
Film Rental	117.21	
Safe Deposit Box	50.00	
New Equipment	1,193.88	
Binding	810.52	
Insurance	348.01	
Stationery and Supplies	59.91	
Advertising	68.19	
New North Branch	3,006.00	
West Branch Renovation	826.06	
Bookends and Engraving	43.75	
Microfilming	4.50	
Repair of safe	6.50	
Prepaid Bond Interest	2,018.08	
General Expenses	184.67	
Roof Repair	87.60	
	$44,841.98	
Balance December 31, 1956		$14,363.80

WILKS FUND
SECURITIES DECEMBER 31, 1956

SAVINGS BANKS	DEPOSIT
Arlington Five Cents Savings	$ 7,500.00
Berkshire County Savings (Pittsfield)	7,500.00
Beverly Savings	7,500.00
Boston Five Cents Savings	20,000.00
Brookline Savings	15,000.00
Cambridge Savings	7,500.00
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings (Harwichport)	25,000.00
Charlestown Savings	7,500.00
City Savings (Pittsfield)	7,500.00
Essex Savings (Lawrence)	7,500.00
Fall River Five Cents Savings	7,500.00
Fall River Savings	20,000.00
Franklin Savings (Boston)	7,500.00
Greenfield Savings	10,000.00
Home Savings	50,000.00
Lynn Institution for Savings	15,000.00
Medford Savings	7,500.00
New Bedford Five Cents Savings	50,343.77
New Bedford Institution for Savings	50,000.00
Newton Savings	7,500.00
Springfield Five Cents Savings	7,500.00
Suffolk Savings (Boston)	7,500.00
Ware Savings	10,000.00
Wareham Savings	25,000.00
Warren Five Cents Savings (Peabody)	7,500.00
Warren Institution for Savings (Boston)	7,500.00
Westfield Savings	7,500.00
	$410,343.77

CO-OPERATIVE BANKS	Paid up Shares
Acushnet Co-operative	$ 8,000.00
New Bedford Co-operative	8,000.00
Quincy Co-operative	8,000.00
	$24,000.00

BONDS

UTILITIES	FACE VALUE	BOOK VALUE	DEC. 31, 1956 MARKET VALUE
Alabama Power Co. 3½ 1972	25M	$26,141.85	$23,375.00
Central Maine Power Co. 3½ 1970	25M	24,312.50	22,500.00
Consolidated Edison of New York 3⅝ 1986	25M	24,756.25	23,875.00
Houston Lighting & Power Company 3¼ 1986	25M	24,506.75	22,000.00
Lake Superior District 2¾ 1980	10M	9,326.85	7,800.00
New Orleans Public Service 3⅛ 1974	25M	24,810.00	21,750.00
Niagara Mohawk Power Company 3⅝ 1986	25M	24,413.00	23,937.50
Public Service of Indiana 3⅛ 1975	25M	25,375.00	22,000.00
So. California Edison Company 3⅝ 1986	25M	25,942.35	24,837.50
	210M	$209,594.55	$192,075.00
TELEPHONE			
American Tel. & Tel. Co. 2¾ 1971	50M	49,257.85	42,750.00
Bell Telephone of Penn. 5's 1960	50M	53,010.45	50,875.00
Mountain States Tel. & Tel. Co. 3½ 1990	25M	23,750.00	23,875.00
New England Tel. & Tel. Co. 4½ 1961	50M	53,075.00	51,125.00
	175M	$179,093.30	$168,625.00
RAILROADS			
Delaware & Hudson Co. 4's 1963	25M	25,750.00	24,625.00
Missouri Pacific Railroad 3⅝ 1970	25M	25,000.00	22,750.00
Northern Pacific Railway 4's 1997	25M	27,750.00	23,250.00
Western Maryland Railway 3½ 1979	25M	24,875.00	23,750.00
	100M	$103,375.00	$ 94,375.00

INDUSTRIAL

Allied Chemical & Dye Corp. 3½ 1978	25M	$26,474.69	$24,125.00
Aluminum Co. of America 3⅛ 1964	25M	25,625.00	23,812.50
American Tobacco Co. 3's 1962	50M	50,875.00	46,500.00
General Electric Co. 3½ 1976	25M	25,562.50	24,103.75
General Motors Corp. 3¼ 1979	50M	51,967.95	45,062.50
Texas Corporation 3's 1965	25M	25,585.25	23,875.00
	200M	$206,090.39	$187,478.75
TOTALS	685M	$698,153.24	$618,678.75

BANK AND INSURANCE STOCKS

		BOOK	DEC. 31, 1956 MARKET
600	National Shawmut Bank, Boston	$28,164.11	$28,900.00
400	First Penn. Banking & Trust Co., Phila.	20,210.04	17,000.00
200	Phoenix Insurance Co., Hartford	18,651.08	13,400.00
400	Springfield Fire & Marine Ins. Co.	23,238.39	18,200.00
		$90,262.62	$77,500.00

TOTALS

	BOOK VALUE	MARKET VALUE
Savings Banks	$410,343.77	$410,343.77
Co-operative Banks	24,000.00	24,000.00
Bonds	698,153.24	642,553.75
Bank and Insurance Stock	90,262.62	77,500.00
	$1,227,759.63	$1,154,397.52
Uninvested Cash		7,921.01

Yield (approx.) Book Value 3.62%
Market Value 3.93%

ANNUAL REPORT

Free Public Library, for the year 1956

IN CITY COUNCIL,

June 27, 1957

Received, placed on file and ordered printed in the City Documents.

CHARLES W. DEASY,
City Clerk

Attest: CHARLES W. DEASY,
City Clerk